

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed from the Patent and Trademark Office on June 20, 2006, which has a shortened statutory period set to expire September 20, 2006.

Claims 1-30 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 11-13 and 26-28 are withdrawn. Claims 1-3, 14-17, 29 and 30 are rejected, Claims 4-10 and 17-25 objected to, and Claims 11-13 and 26-28 are withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 1-3, 14-17, 29 and 30 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Francis USP 6,128,194.

In the current paper, Claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter of Claim 4, which is believed to therefore place Claim 1 in condition for allowance due to the indicated allowability of Claim 4.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from Claim 1, and are therefore believed to be allowable over the cited prior art in view of the amendment to Claim 1.

Similarly, Claim 14 is amended herein to include the subject matter of Claim 17, which is believed to therefore place Claim 1 in condition for allowance due to the indicated allowability of Claim 17.

Claims 15 and 16 depend from Claim 14, and are therefore believed to be allowable over the cited prior art in view of the amendment to Claim 14.

Claims 29 and 30 are canceled.

No new matter is entered.

In view of the above amendments, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC 102(b).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4-10 and 17-25 are objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim, but are otherwise indicated as being allowable.

Claim 4 is canceled in view of the amendment to Claim 1 (discussed above), and Claims 5, 7 and 8 are amended to change their dependence from canceled Claim 4 to Claim 1.

Similarly, Claim 17 is canceled in view of the amendment to Claim 14 (discussed above), and Claims 18, 20 and 21 are amended to change their dependence from canceled Claim 17 to Claim 14.

No new matter is entered.

In view of the amendments described herein, all of Claims 1-3, 5-10, 14-16 and 18-25 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

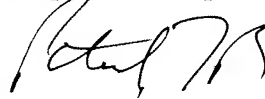
Request for Reinstatement of Withdrawn Claims

Claims 11-13 and 26-28 are withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected species. Claims 11-13 are dependent from Claim 10, which is allowed and remains generic to the subject matter of Claims 11-13. Similarly, Claims 26-28 are dependent from Claim 21, which is allowed and remains generic to the subject matter of Claims 26-28. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reinstatement of Claims 11-13 and 26-28 at this time.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, Applicants believe Claims 1-3, 5-10, 14-16 and 18-25 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reinstatement of Claims 11-13 and 26-28 is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present paper, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



Customer No. 22888

Patrick T. Bever  
Agent for Applicant  
Reg. No. 33,834  
408-451-5902